

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y : M R N R E A D S 7 8 8 4 V I C E 8 6 6 7

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, BL  
SUBJ: BOLIVIAN UNIVERSITIES OPEN WITHOUT INCIDENT

REF: LA PAZ 7118

SUMMARY: THE UNIVERSIDAD MAYOR DE SAN ANDRES (UMSA) IN LA PAZ AS WELL AS OTHER UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT BOLIVIA OPENED WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENT NOVEMBER 3 AND SEEM TO BE CONTINUING PEACEFULLY. THE CABINET, OCTOBER 31, APPROVED A NEW BASIC LAW GOVERNING UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS (MODIFYING SIGNIFICANTLY THE PROVISIONS OF JUNE 2, 1972). END SUMMARY.

1. THE CONSEJO NACIONAL DE EDUCACION SUPERIOR (CNES) EXPLAINED THAT THE NEW LAW WOULD CONTAIN FEWER ARTICLES BECAUSE IT COMMITTED SUBSIDIARY PROVISIONS TO STATUTES AND RULES. POLITICALLY, THE LAW ESTABLISHES TWO CONSULTATIVE COUNCILS OF RECTORS AND OF FACULTIES ELECTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES (ONE PER FACULTY) WOULD SIT ON BOTH COUNCILS. HOWEVER UNDER THE NOVEMBER 9, 1974 DECREE THESE REPRESENTATIVE BODIES WILL NOT REPEAT NOT OPERATE UNTIL THE RESUMPTION OF

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THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES. CNES (WHOSE GOVERNING

BOARD IS NAMED BY THE PRESIDENT) WILL NAME THE KEY  
UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS UNTIL THE NEW LAW IS IMPLEMENTED FULLY.

2. REPORTEDLY THE INTERIOR MINISTRY ALSO PICKED UP  
AND DETAINED FEW POSSIBLE LEADERS OF DEMONSTRATIONS  
OVER THE WEEKEND. DETAINING THIS GROUP (18 OR MORE)  
IN ADDITION TO LEFTIST STUDENTS ALREADY UNDER  
DETENTION SINCE EARLY OCTOBER (REFTEL), APPARENTLY  
REMOVED POTENTIAL "TROUBLE MAKERS". STUDENTS WERE  
WELL-AWARE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO PICK  
UP SEVERAL MORE FORMER ACTIVISTS IN THE EVENT OF  
TROUBLES.

3. PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE UNIVERSITIES, THE  
EMBASSY HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT SOME ANTI-GOVERN-  
MENT STUDENTS GROUPS HAD ALREADY DECIDED NOT TO CAUSE  
DIFFICULTIES. ACCORDING TO THEIR REASONING, THE  
GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED OR EVEN ANXIOUS TO CLOSE THE  
UNIVERSITIES AGAIN IN RESPONSE TO ANY DEMONSTRATIONS.  
IN FACT, THE GOVERNMENT SEEMED QUITE PLEASED WITH THE  
QUIET RENEWAL OF UNIVERSITY LIFE AND RELEASED THE  
GROUP OF STUDENTS IT HAD TEMPORARY DETAINED OVER THE  
WEEKEND. HOWEVER, THE STUDENTS ARRESTED EARLIER  
WERE NOT REPEATEDLY RELEASED.

4. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS CONGRATULATED GOVERNMENT AND  
STUDENTS ON THE TROUBLE-FREE OPENING, WHILE  
REPORTING SOME COMPLAINTS FROM VARIOUS UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OVER FORCED RETIRE-  
MENTS AND LAYOFFS. EMBASSY IS POUCHING TEXT OF NEW  
DECREES REGULATING UNIVERSITIES TO DEPARTMENT AND  
WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR UNIVERSITY SCENE.  
STEDMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, BL, UNIVERSIDAD MAYOR DE SAN ANDRES  
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